

by Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council.

(II) Comprehensive Health and Beneficiary Needs assessment survey in Hill areas under Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council.

Closure of Small Scale Industrial Units

597. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRYIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether about two lakh small scale industrial units have threatened to close their establishments indefinitely;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Appointment/Transfer of Judges

598. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

SHRI MUNNI LAL:

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN:

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of LAW and JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the existing procedure for the appointment/transfer of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts;

(b) whether the Government have taken any decision to introduce an amendment Bill to give the executive final say in the appointment and transfer of Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts;

(c) if so, the time by which the legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced;

(d) whether the Government have decided that till legislation is introduced, the present rule will prevail;

(e) whether the Government have received any representation against it; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) The appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts are made in accordance with Article 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India respectively. Following the majority judgement of a 9 member bench of the Supreme Court on 6.10.1993, the Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of Judges was revised. According

to the revised procedure, the proposal for appointment of a Judge in the High Court should be initiated by the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. In respect of appointment of Judges in Supreme Court and Chief Justices of High Courts and transfer of Chief Justices and Judges of High Court, the proposals are to be initiated by Chief Justice of India. Prior to 1993 judgement, proposals could be initiated by Government also.

(b) The Government decided to introduce a Constitution Amendment Bill in Parliament to make changes in the existing system of appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court, Chief Justices of the High Courts, Judges of the High Courts and transfer of Judges of the High Courts. The Government felt it necessary to amend the Constitution to reiterate and spell out the intent of the framers of the Constitution clearly and unambiguously with a view to keep it beyond the pale of any controversy. Accordingly, the Constitution (Eighty-Second Amendment) Bill, 1997 was circulated to members of the Lok Sabha in March, 1997.

(c) No time frame can be stipulated at this stage.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) The proposed Amendment Bill has elicited mixed response from members of Parliament, legal and Constitutional experts and media.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to India Trade Organisation

599. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VARMA:

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government to India Trade Organisation during 1996-97;

(b) the total financial assistance provided/likely to be provided to India Trade Promotion Organisation during 1997-98;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to reduce this assistance;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the India Trade Promotion Organisation has increased the rate of its service charges; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The Government has provided a grant of Rs. 416.38 lakhs to ITPO from MDA funds during 1996-97 towards reimbursement of deficits incurred by them on organisation of fairs and exhibitions at the specific behest of the Govt. during